

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended): An optical table comprising in height order: a top skin, an upper vibration isolating core, an intermediate skin, a lower vibration isolating core and a bottom skin, wherein the upper vibration isolating core and the lower vibration isolating core provide rigidity to the optical table.

2. (Original): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate skin comprises two sheets bonded together.

3. (Currently amended): An optical table according to claim 1, further comprising a spacer layer arranged under the top skin and separated from the upper vibration isolating core by a midskin.

4. (Currently amended) An optical table according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of the upper vibration isolating core and the lower vibration isolating core is made of formed steel.

5. (Currently amended): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of the upper vibration isolating core and the lower vibration isolating core is made of composite material.

6. (Currently amended): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of the upper vibration isolating core and the lower vibration isolating core is aluminum honeycomb.

7. (Original): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the table has a thickness from top skin to bottom skin in excess of at least one of the group of 310, 460 and 600 mm.

8. (Currently amended): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the top skin, upper vibration isolating core and intermediate skin form a first subassembly and the intermediate skin, lower vibration isolating core and bottom skin form a second subassembly,

and each of the first and second subassemblies has a thickness less than at least one of the group of 350 mm, 300 mm and 250 mm.

9. (Original): An optical table system comprising an optical table according to claim 1 arranged on a plurality of supporting legs.

10. (Currently amended): A method of manufacturing an optical table comprising:
making at least two subassemblies, wherein each subassembly is made by bonding a vibration isolating core to upper and lower skins, wherein the vibration isolating cores provide rigidity to the subassembly; and

bonding the subassemblies together to form the optical table.

11. (Original): A method according to claim 10, wherein the bonding between the subassemblies is performed using a cold cure adhesive.

12. (Original): A method according to claim 10, wherein the bonding between the subassemblies is performed using a hot cure adhesive.

13. (Currently amended): An optical table formed of at least two subassemblies bonded together, each subassembly comprising a vibration isolating core bonded to upper and lower skins, wherein the lower skin of one subassembly is bonded to the upper skin of another subassembly arranged below it.